AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Previously presented): A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of an osteonecrotic bone disease in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering an effective dose of a strontium-containing compound to the mammal.

2. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~daily~~ dose comprises a daily dose of strontium ~~is~~ of at least about 0.01 g.

3. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the administration takes place one or more times daily.

4. (Original): A method according to claim 3, wherein the administration takes place from 2-5 times daily.

5. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the administration is by an enteral or parenteral route or by topical administration.

6. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 5, wherein the administration is by an oral route.

7. (Previously presented): A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of an osteonecrotic bone disease, in a mammal who is to be or is treated with a therapeutic agent known to or suspected of inducing apoptosis and/or necrosis of bone cells, the method comprising administering a strontium-containing compound in combination with the therapeutic agent.

8. (Original): A method according to claim 7, wherein the apoptosis and/or necrosis of bone cells lead to an osteonecrotic bone disease.

9. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 7, wherein the administration of the strontium-containing compound and the therapeutic agent leads to at least one of the following:

i) reduction in the incidence or severity of the osteonecrotic bone disease, wherein the incidence or severity of the osteonecrotic bone disease is reduced by at least 5% in patients treated with the strontium-containing compound and the therapeutic agent in combination as compared to patients treated with the therapeutic agent alone in the same dose as the therapeutic agent in the combination,

ii) reduction of frequency and/or magnitude of side-effects of the therapeutic agent, wherein side effects are being defined as any clinical relevant observation pertaining to the disease or condition in the patient, and wherein the frequency and/or magnitude of the side-effects is reduced by at least 5% in patients treated with the strontium-containing compound and the therapeutic agent in combination as compared to patients treated with the therapeutic agent alone in the same dose as the therapeutic agent in the combination.

10. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 7, wherein the therapeutic agent is a glucocorticoid and/or another steroid hormone.

11. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 7, wherein the therapeutic agent is an anti-retroviral compound.

12. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 7, wherein the therapeutic agent is a bisphosphonate.

13. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 7, wherein the ~~daily~~ dose comprises a daily dose of strontium ~~is~~ of at least about 0.01 g.

14. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 7, wherein the strontium-containing compound and the therapeutic agent are administered as a single composition.

15. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 7, wherein the strontium-containing compound and the therapeutic agent are administered as separate compositions.

16. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 7, wherein the administration of the strontium-containing compound and the therapeutic agent take place simultaneously or sequentially.

17. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the strontium-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of strontium salts of an organic or an inorganic acid.

18. (Original): A method according to claim 17, wherein the salt is in hydrate, anhydrous, solvate, polymorphous, amorphous, crystalline, microcrystalline or polymeric form.

19. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the strontium-containing compound is strontium chloride, strontium carbonate, strontium citrate, strontium malonate, strontium succinate, strontium fumarate, strontium ascorbate, strontium pyruvate, strontium L-glutamate, strontium D-glutamate, strontium L-aspartate, strontium D-aspartate, strontium alpha-ketoglutarate, strontium lactate, strontium tartrate, strontium glutarate, strontium maleate, strontium methanesulfonate, strontium benzenesulfonate, strontium ranelate or mixtures thereof.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a strontium-containing compound, and a therapeutic agent that is known to or suspected of inducing apoptosis and/or necrosis of bone cells leading to an osteonecrotic bone condition.

23. (Previously presented): A kit comprising two or more components, the first component comprising a strontium-containing compound and the second component comprising a therapeutic agent that is known to or suspected of inducing apoptosis and/or necrosis of bone cells leading to an osteonecrotic bone condition.

24. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the osteonecrotic bone disease is idiopathic or secondary osteonecrosis, avascular bone necrosis, glucocorticoid induced bone ischemia/osteonecrosis, Legg-Calve-Perthes disease or femoral head necrosis.

25. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 7, wherein the osteonecrotic bone disease is idiopathic or secondary osteonecrosis, avascular bone necrosis, glucocorticoid induced bone ischemia/osteonecrosis ~~and~~ or femoral head necrosis.

26. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the side effects pertain to bone-pain, joint-pain, immobility, functional impairment, weight loss or bone mineral density (BMD) decrease.

27. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 11, wherein the anti-retroviral compound is efavirenz ~~(Sustiva®)~~, zidovudine ~~(Retrovir®)~~, lamivodine ~~(Epivir®)~~, abacavir ~~(Ziagen®)~~, zalcitabine ~~(Hivid®)~~, didanosine ~~(Videx®)~~, stavudine ~~(Zerit®)~~, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate ~~(Viread®)~~, emtricitabine ~~(Emtriva®)~~, fosamprenavir ~~(Lexiva®)~~, nevirapine ~~(Viramune®)~~, delavirdine ~~(Rescriptor®)~~, capravirine, enfuvirtide ~~(Fuzeon®)~~, saquinavir ~~(Invirase®, Fortovase®)~~, ritonavir ~~(Norvir®)~~, indinavir ~~(Crixivan®)~~, tipranavir, amdoxovir, elvucitabine, atazanivir ~~(Reyataz®)~~, nelfinavir ~~(Viracept®)~~, amprenavir ~~(Agenerase®)~~, PRO-542, TMC-114, TMC-125, BMS-56190, or DPC-0830.

28. (Previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22, further comprising one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

29. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the strontium-containing compound comprises strontium malonate.

30. (New): The method of claim 7, wherein the strontium-containing compound comprises strontium malonate.

31. (New): The composition of claim 22, wherein the strontium-containing compound comprises strontium malonate.

32. (New): The kit of claim 23, wherein the strontium-containing compound comprises strontium malonate.